

## BEN WATT BIOGRAPHY

Ben Watt first appeared in London in 1981 as a young nineteen-year-old experimental songwriter-singer-guitarist. 1982's 5-track EP *Summer into Winter* featured Robert Wyatt. His early work culminated in his sparse atmospheric debut album *North Marine Drive* (1983, UK Independent Album Chart, No 9).

In 1983 he put solo plans on hold to perform and write full-time with Tracey Thorn in their recently-formed duo *Everything But The Girl*. The band stayed active until 2000, delivering twelve UK Top 40 singles, two platinum and seven gold UK Top 20 albums and one gold US album. 1995's global hit *Missing* reached No. 2 on the US Billboard Top 100. The 1994 album *Amplified Heart* and the 1996 album *Walking Wounded* - for which Watt was nominated as Best Producer at the Q Awards - each sold over a million copies.

The duo's career was dramatically interrupted for a year in 1992 by Watt's drawn-out hospitalisation and near-death experience with a rare auto-immune disease *Churg-Strauss Syndrome* (aka *EGPA*) with which he now still lives - a period documented in his acclaimed 1996 memoir, *Patient* (New York Times Notable Book of the Year; shortlisted for the Esquire Non-Fiction Award; Sunday Times Book of the Year)

*Everything But The Girl* quit on a high in 2000. Watt moved out of the mainstream into record production (Beth Orton), remixing (inc Sade, Maxwell, Meshell Ndegeocello), DJing and clubland. He co-launched the influential London day-night Sunday party and compilation series *Lazy Dog* (1998-2003) and was creative director, resident DJ and part-owner at west London night clubs *Cherry Jam* and *Neighbourhood* (2001-2003) before starting his own award-winning electronic record label and club night *Buzzin' Fly* in 2003. He was nominated for Outstanding Contribution to Dance Music at the DJ Magazine Best of British Awards 2009, and as Best Deep House DJ four years running (2008-2011) at the global DJ Awards. He was a resident DJ on BBC 6Music's flagship electronic music show *6Mix* from 2011-2014.

In 2013 he put *Buzzin' Fly* and his DJ career on hold and returned to his earliest roots in singer-songwriting to record 2014's award-winning solo album, *Hendra* - his first for thirty-one years - released on his new imprint *Unmade Road*, through *Caroline International*. The same year *Bloomsbury* published his second memoir, *Romany and Tom* - a searing but tender portrait of his parents' marriage - nominated for the UK's highly prestigious *Samuel Johnson Non-Fiction Prize 2014* (now the *Baillie Gifford Prize*).

His third solo album *Fever Dream* followed in 2016. *Uncut* posted a lengthy 9/10 review. The *Guardian* commented: 'In his early fifties, he is making some of the best music of his career.'

2019 saw the recording of a new solo album, *Storm Damage*, for release on *Unmade Road* through *Caroline International* in January 2020.

He lives in North London with wife, Tracey Thorn. They married in 2008 and have three children - twin girls, Jean and Alfie born 1998; and a son Blake born 2001.

See [benwatt.com/about](http://benwatt.com/about) for more detail